



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held October 11, 2005, the Board took the following action:

11

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Knabe:

"Last week, we received a status report from the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Task Force on Mentoring, with regards to the progress made on implementing a plan to provide a mentor to every child in foster care by 2010, pursuant to my motion and this Board's action last January. Since that time, the taskforce has worked tirelessly to develop an unprecedented approach that focuses on a Countywide collaboration that unifies the efforts of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and community-based agencies involved in mentorship.

"In my motion last January, I asked DCFS to assume a leadership role in this effort. As part of the Mentoring Taskforce, DCFS has developed a five year Business Plan that clearly articulates how the ambitious '2010 goal' will be met. DCFS has created a Mentoring Section that will be the tipping point of this collaborative. The Section will identify youth who would most benefit from a mentor, set up a tracking system, and help facilitate background clearances for mentors. It also will support and assist mentoring organizations and evaluate overall outcomes.

"While it is clear that DCFS is committed to this collaborative mentoring effort, DCFS leadership has indicated that it does not currently have sufficient resources to fully staff and fund this Mentoring Section. At present, the DCFS Mentoring Section has two full time staff. In my view, this is not an adequate investment of resources, if this effort is to be truly successful. I believe that engaging caring adults to become a consistent, positive force in the lives of our foster children is in perfect alignment with the Department's goals of working towards permanency for all of our foster youth.

(Continued on Page 2)

11 (Continued)

“These adults - if identified, encouraged and supported properly - could very well transcend their role as mentors and become adoptive parents. National studies clearly indicate that foster youth benefit tangibly from the presence of a mentor in their lives, to support, love and encourage them, and I believe that this County should do everything possible to ensure that all of the children in our care are offered every opportunity to overcome the formidable challenges of their early lives and become successful adults in our society.”

Rachel White addressed the Board.

After discussion, at the suggestion of Supervisor Knabe, and on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer to identify and allocate resources to fully staff a Mentoring Section, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Task Force on Mentoring; and
2. Requested the ICAN Task Force on Mentoring to report back to the Board within six months as to the progress made in achieving the goal of providing a mentor for every foster youth.

05101105\_11

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

Letter sent to:

Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on  
Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force on Mentoring

October 12, 2005

Ms. Deanne Tilton, Executive Director  
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Task Force on Mentoring  
4024 North Durfee Road  
El Monte, CA 91732

Dear Ms. Tilton:

At its meeting held October 11, 2005, on recommendation of Supervisor Don Knabe, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors took actions as indicated in the enclosed minute order and requested the ICAN Task Force on Mentoring to report back to the Board within six months as to the progress made in achieving the goal of providing a mentor for every foster youth.

Very truly yours,

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

05101105\_11

Enclosure